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Environment and sustainable development:
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Morocco,* Japan and Mexico: draft resolution

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001 and 57/256 of 20 December 2002 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/63 of 30 July 1999, and taking note of Council resolution 2001/35 of 26 July 2001,

Emphasizing that disaster reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

Noting the relevant provisions of the Ministerial Declaration of the Ministerial Conference of the Third World Water Forum, held at Kyoto, Japan, on 22 and 23 March 2003, on water-related disasters,

Reiterating that, although natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development,

Recognizing the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to tackle natural disasters effectively,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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Expressing its deep concern at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters within recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;[1]

2. *Invites* Governments and relevant international organizations to consider disaster risk assessment as an integral component of development plans and poverty eradication programmes;

3. *Stresses* that continued interaction, coordination and partnerships among the institutions concerned are considered essential to address effectively the impact of natural disasters;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of linking disaster risk management to regional frameworks, as appropriate, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[2] to address issues of poverty eradication and sustainable development;

5. *Also recognizes* the importance of taking measures to integrate a gender perspective in the design and implementation of disaster reduction strategies to improve their effectiveness;

6. *Further recognizes* the importance of early warning as an essential element of disaster reduction, and underscores the outcome of the Second International Conference on Early Warning, held at Bonn, Germany from 16 to 18 October 2003, which provides a substantive contribution to the review of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action;[3]

7. *Decides* to convene the Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005 with the following objectives:

(a) To conclude the review of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action, with a view to updating the guiding framework on disaster reduction for the twenty-first century;

(b) To identify specific activities and means of implementation aimed at ensuring the fulfilment of relevant provisions of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[4] on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management;

(c) To share best practices and lessons learned to tackle natural disasters within the context of attaining sustainable development;

(d) To increase awareness of the importance of disaster reduction policies, thereby facilitating and promoting the implementation of those policies;

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[1] A/58/277.

[2] A/57/304, annex.

[3] A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

8. *Accepts with deep appreciation* the generous offer of the Government of Japan to host the Conference, and decides that the Conference will be held at Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005;

9. *Decides* to establish an open-ended intergovernmental preparatory committee for the Conference to review the organizational and substantive preparations for the Conference, to approve the programme of work of the Conference and to propose rules of procedure for adoption by the Conference, and also decides that the preparatory committee will meet at Geneva following the 2004 semi-annual session of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and will hold a one-day meeting at Kobe;

10. *Further decides* that the intergovernmental preparatory committee will have a bureau consisting of five representatives of Member States elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation;

11. *Requests* the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to serve as the secretariat of the Conference and to coordinate preparatory activities, in close cooperation with the host country and the preparatory committee for the Conference, with the full support of the relevant departments of the Secretariat;

12. *Invites* Member States, all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental agencies and organizations, in particular the members of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, to participate actively in the Conference, as well as its preparatory process;

13. *Welcomes* contributions from all regions that could provide substantive inputs to the preparatory process and the Conference itself;

14. *Encourages* effective contributions from major groups, as identified in Agenda 21,[5] and invites them to seek accreditation to the Conference and its preparatory process and decides that their accreditation and participation will be in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the rules of procedure of the World Summit of Sustainable Development and the established practice of the Commission on the participation and engagement of major groups;

15. *Decides* that the preparatory process and the Conference itself should be funded through existing budgetary resources, without negatively affecting programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

16. *Encourages* the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to the Trust Fund and to provide the necessary scientific, technical, human and other resources to ensure adequate support for the activities of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy and the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and its working groups, as well as to facilitate the preparations for the Conference;

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[5] *Report of the World Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

17. *Expresses its appreciation* to those countries that have provided financial support for the activities of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction by making voluntary contributions to its Trust Fund;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to allocate adequate financial and administrative resources, within existing resources, for the effective functioning of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy;

19. *Requests also* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the state of preparations for the World Conference, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".